

long run. Well, that is about the same level of Federal spending during the Presidency of Calvin Coolidge, nearly a century ago, when defense spending was very small and there was very little, if any, support for education and the infrastructure of our country. We don't live in the era of Calvin Coolidge any longer, but this budget would take us back to that time.

Adding insult to injury, this budget plan makes a mockery of the concept of shared sacrifice to reduce deficits. Apparently, it wasn't enough to bail out the Wall Street bankers whose reckless gambling and risk-taking created the great recession; now we are being asked to cut programs for working Americans so that Wall Street can get another giant tax cut.

This Republican tea party budget is built on bad priorities, bad policy, and just plain bad values. As columnist E.J. Dionne points out, Americans can see "how radical the new conservatives in Washington are, and the extent to which some politicians would transfer even more resources from the have-nots and the have-a-littles to the have-a-lots."

Going back to the 1930s, the American people have supported and strengthened an unwritten social contract. That social contract says that we will prepare our young, care for our elderly, and build a safety net for those who fall, who become disabled or sick. That unwritten social contract says that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will be able to rise to the middle class or even beyond. That social contract says that if you start at the bottom, you will have a ladder of opportunity to the middle class. It says that a cardinal rule of government is to provide a ladder of opportunity so that every American can realistically aspire to the American dream.

But in one fell swoop, this Republican budget rips up that social contract. It replaces it with a winner-takes-all philosophy that tells struggling, aspiring people and communities across America: You are on your own.

If you are a low-income high school student who can only afford college with the help of a generous Pell grant, this budget says: Tough luck. You are on your own.

If you are a working couple with two kids who can't scrape together enough money to purchase decent health insurance, this budget says: Tough luck. You are on your own.

If you are a poor rural community that needs assistance to pay for a new sewer system or a flood control project, this budget says: Tough luck. You are on your own.

If you are a poor, urban community struggling to find funding to create high-quality K-12 public schools for your children, this budget says: Tough luck. You are on your own.

If you are a retiree with serious health problems and can't afford the big out-of-pocket costs in this Republican plan to do away with Medicare or if your health insurance company abruptly cancels your policy, this budget says: Tough luck. You are on your own.

If you are a low-income family who counts on Federal nutrition assistance and you are trying to decide whether to spend scarce dollars on food or medicine, this budget says: Tough luck. You are on your own.

Mr. President, this would not be the America we have come to know and love. It is not the kind of America my grandparents and your grandparents or our fathers and mothers built for us and for future generations. It is not the America that built the best middle class history has ever seen. This budget is not the kind of America my friends and neighbors in Iowa would find acceptable.

So, mark my words, this budget is not a courageous budget. As I said, it is a cowardly budget, a bully budget. And the American people will not stand for this unwise, unbalanced, unfair assault on their economic security, their way of life, and the America our grandparents and our parents built for us and for future generations.

Mr. President, I will oppose with every fiber of my being these grossly, misguided proposals in every way I can. And I can assure you, Mr. President, the American people will not stand for this tea party Republican budget either.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.J. RES. 37

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand there is a House joint resolution at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The clerk will read the joint resolution by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 37) disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices.

Mr. HARKIN. I now ask for its second reading, and in order to place the joint resolution on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The joint resolution will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:31 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 12, 2011:

THE JUDICIARY

VINCENT L. BRICCETTI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

JOHN A. KRONSTADT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.